(b) what steps Government have taken to publicise this Yojana in that State and in rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Balika Samridhi Yojana is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh since its inception and 1,48,921 girl child have so far been covered in the State under the scheme.

(b) Wide publicity is given to the scheme through electronic and print media through out the country. In Andhra Pradesh the scheme has been widely discussed in all Gram Sabhas conducted during Janma Bhoomi Programme and Mothers Committee meetings.

Funds for vocational courses in Uttar Pradesh

3203. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh for its Colleges and Universities, for starting vocational courses. during the year 2001-2002;

(b) the amount proposed to be allotted for the purpose for 2002-2003;

(c) the college-wise details in the State which have been granted funds for vocational courses; and

(d) the details of achievements made so far, in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hostels in Delhi University

3204. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of progress made and utilization status of funds for the two hostel buildings constructed in Delhi University, funded by North East Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, construction of

one hostel each in North and South Campuses of the University at estimated cost of Rs. 313.00 lakhs and Rs. 281.00 lakhs respectively has been undertaken by the University with the funds made available by the North Eastern Council. Both these hostels have been completed and admissions of students in these hostels made. As regards utilization of funds, the University has informed that expenditure of Rs. 280.66 lakhs and Rs. 278.20 lakhs has so far been incurred on construction of hostels in North and South Campuses respectively. The actual cost of the project will, however, be known after the final bills have been received from the executing agencies.

Child prostitution

3205. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly two million children are forced into prostitution every year, even fifty five years after independence as reported in the Statesmen of August 12, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have caused a probe into the affairs and circumstances, in which children are abused, exploited and sold, to be driven into prostitution; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any comprehensive programme or plan of action, to effectively curb and prevent the social menace, affecting our children, the future of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) No, Sir. However studies have shown that nearly 15% of the women in prostitution are less than 15 year of age. Government has launched a survey in 2002 to determine the approximate number.

(b) Government has formulated a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998 with the objective to mainstream and reintegrate women and child victims of prostitution in society through strategies that cover prevention, enforcement, rescue and rehabilitation.

A number of schemes/programmes for the rescue, rehabilitation of women and child victims of prostitution are under implementation by the